

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04

EUR-12 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /073 W

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P 291210Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9090

INFO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA 27

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS MBABANE 0138

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, WZ

SUBJECT: AVIATION DEVELOPMENTS IN SWAZILAND

1. ACCORDING TO GOS DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, BOTH CABINET AND KING HAVE NOW APPROVED THE PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR SWAZILAND. FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A 10,500 FT. RUNWAY WITH PARALLEL TAXIWAY, INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL, GERAL AVIATION TERMINAL, CARGO AND HEAD OF STATE BUILDINGS; CONTROL TOWER, STANDBY POWER, LARGE MAINTENANCE AREA INCLUDING FOUR HEANGARS, FULL LIGHTING SYSTEM AND ALL NECESSARY AUXILIARY FACILITIES. NAVIGATION AIDS WILL INCLUDE INSTRUMENT LANDING AND VISUAL LANDING SYSTEMS AND VOR/DME. THE AIRPORT WILL OCCUPY A 1500 ACRE SITE NEAR MPAKA, 58 MILES EAST OF MBABANE. COST IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$30 MILLION.

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2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR THIS MAJOR PROJECT IS STILL UNCERTAIN.

PLESSY (UK) HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE GOS AND THE SWAZILAND NATIONAL COUNCIL TO TRY TO PUT TOGETHER A FINANCING ARRANGMNT.

3. PENDING CONSTRUCTION OF THIS NEW FACILITY, GOS INTENDS TO SPEND APPROXIMATELY \$200,000 T UPGRADE THE PRESENT AIRPORT AT MATSAPA. THIS WORK WILL INCLUDE RESURFACING THE RUNWA, INSTALLATION OF BETTER RADIO FACILITIES, IMPROVING WATER SUPPY AND ADDING MORE STAFF QUARTERS.

4. THE KING HAS ALSO DECIDED THAT SWAZILAND WILL HAVE A NATIONAL AIRLING AND MINISTER OF WORKS, POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS IS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSING FINANCING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH BRITISH CALEDONIAN. LANE

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Disposition Event:
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